

hummed the tune (randomly entitled "scrambled eggs") to his band mates and everyone else in his greater circle of musicians, all in an attempt to determine whether it was a product of his own musical software or a reflection of a tune he had previously heard for which he was serving as a mere psychic conduit. When he finally accepted the song as his own, he re-dubbed it "Yesterday" and the rest is history. Over 3000 singers have recorded the song, a number which marks it as a continuing star in the firmament of pop music.

His story caused me to reflect on the phenomena of talent, particularly as alluded to by Malcolm Gladwell in his book, "Outliers." In this book, there's a central premise that suggests that great achievement is derived from spending at least 10,000 hours honing one's craft. Specifically, it uses as an example Paul McCartney and the Beatles playing in the clubs of Hamburg where they purportedly refined their songs. Notwithstanding the fact that the "Hamburg" Beatles played cover songs which could have encouraged them to write their original tunes, the more simple truth points to what McCartney observes in himself as some mystical talent with which he has been gifted, something for which he has no explanation. The difference between the Beatles and thousands of other bands can be found in these "gifts" of unusual talent.

Not to be too grand, but the book "the 100: A Ranking of the 100 Most Influential People in History" by M.H. Hart is a primer for the study of people with extraordinary talent and abilities. For example, Genghis Khan was a late bloomer and certainly had no training as a military leader, but no one else in military history save perhaps Alexander shows anything close to his record of achievements. And how many in the realm of physics approach the works of Newton, Maxwell and Einstein? I realize this is a leap from Sir Paul, but pure talent, while it surely needs to be developed, is really a gift that defies description. It seems that some things just "are" and that's the name of that tune. And upon such random distributions of talent and ability the upward curve of the course of history will continue to remain reliant.

Sir Paul, author of over 300 popular songs, also played "Blackbird," a very pleasing and interesting composition. But I was hoping he'd do, "Fixing a Hole" as a nod to BP who could certainly use a little mystical talent about now, no?

RECOGNIZING SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 284, which recognizes the important role that special education teachers play in our Nation's schools. I thank my colleague, Congressman SESSIONS for introducing this resolution.

In 1972, the United States Supreme Court ruled that children with disabilities have the same right to receive a quality education as their nondisabled peers. Today, approximately 10 percent of our student population receives special education services.

It truly takes a special person to work with our special needs students. These teachers

often work well beyond the normal school day in designing individualized lesson plans for their students. Special education teachers have a tremendous amount of patience, flexibility, and creativity in dealing with special needs students. These teachers must also be able to adapt their teaching styles to accommodate the unique behavioral, social, emotional, or physical needs of their students.

Mr. Speaker, I would personally like to recognize the approximately 955 special education teachers in Los Angeles County. These individuals work extremely hard to provide a quality education to over 6,500 special education students. These extraordinary individuals work tirelessly and without complaint in trying to achieve successful outcomes for their students.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we should pay tribute to the special education aides that assist the teacher in the classroom. These individuals are often overworked and underpaid and are frequently underappreciated for the positive contributions they make to our special needs students.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 284 in recognizing the important role that special education teachers play in our schools.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2194, COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. The provisions contained in this act come after repeated attempts by the U.S. and partner nations to halt Iran's nuclear weapons program and curtail aggressive Iranian overtures around the globe—Tehran continues to sponsor, train, and equip terrorist organizations in the Middle East, act as a destabilizing force in Iraq and Afghanistan, and deploy Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force unconventional warfare operatives into the Western Hemisphere. The potential for a nuclear-armed Iran, when combined with the Iranian regime's volatile rhetoric and ambiguous intentions, poses a serious threat to the security of the United States, our troops serving in the Middle East, and our allies. The President and his administration have taken important steps to dissuade Iran from continuing to pursue nuclear weapons. The passage of this legislation sends a clear message that Iran's continued defiance will lead to significant, negative consequences for the Iranian regime.

In addition to imposing sanctions on refined petroleum to Iran, this legislation will broaden the entities affected by sanctions to include foreign entities that sell developmental energy technology, services, or information to Iran. This act also prohibits foreign banks from doing business in the U.S. if they deal with blacklisted Iranian institutions involved in the development of weapons of mass destruction or the promotion of international terrorism.

I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for demonstrating such clear soli-

arity on this issue. I urge Iranian leaders to carefully consider the high costs of increased isolation brought about by their continued irresponsibility.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, during the vote on H.R. 5618, the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2010, I was unavoidably detained—had I been present I would have voted against this legislation.

Americans are struggling to make ends meet in this economy and while I support giving unemployment benefits to people who lost their jobs, it is irresponsible for this Congress to add \$34 billion to the national debt to do so. This legislation should have been paid for with cuts to other programs. Last week the Treasury Department quietly announced that the estimated total debt for fiscal year 2010 will reach \$13.6 trillion, equal to 93.1 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. With the European Union in the midst of a sovereign debt crisis, this is the wrong time to add to our already staggering national debt.

Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 5623, the Homebuyers Assistance and Improvement Act of 2010, I would have voted in favor of this legislation. Unlike H.R. 5618, the cost of this legislation is fully offset. The homebuyer tax credit has been very successful, and after its expiration on April 30th, home sales dropped by more than 30 percent. Extending this credit by 90 days and fully offsetting its cost is a responsible course of action I fully support.

HONORING PERCY P. CREUZOT, JR.

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great husband, father, entrepreneur, community activist and all-around great American, Percy P. Creuzot, Jr., who passed on from his earthly life on Sunday, June 6, 2010. We are privileged and honored to salute him as a Great Houstonian for all of America to admire.

Percy Creuzot had a unique ability to reach out and help others. Mr. Creuzot effectively articulated that strong communities are created when we recognize that every member of the community is important. He demonstrated this belief in every aspect of his life.

In 1966 his family moved to Houston, Texas, where he was employed by Herff-Jones Jewelry, a graduation supply company. Percy's first entrepreneurial endeavor in Houston was a snow-ball shop in Houston on Dowling and McGowan. There was a dearth of restaurant chains and, even fewer operated in minority neighborhoods. Mr. Creuzot saw the need for uplifting his community with his cuisine and with that envisioned a need and market in Houston for Southern Louisiana foods. With the influence from family members he decided to open a small sandwich shop in